



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Indiana School Superintendents & Principals

**FROM:** Michele Walker, Director of Student Assessment  
Dorothy Winchester, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Clarification regarding ISTEP+ science and social studies assessments

**DATE:** March 14, 2008

This memorandum clarifies the grade levels at which ISTEP+ science and social studies assessments will be administered as Indiana moves from fall to spring testing next year (2008-09).

**Following the fall 2008 ISTEP+ administration, ISTEP+ science assessments will be administered at grades 4 and 6 beginning in spring 2009.** Although the current ISTEP+ science assessments are administered at grades 5 and 7 each fall, these tests actually assess science content from grades 4 and 6. With the move to end-of-year testing, administering the science assessments at grades 4 and 6 will preserve existing test content while allowing local educators to benchmark achievement of key skills as students move into middle level science.

**ISTEP+ social studies assessments will be administered at grades 5 and 7 beginning in spring 2009.** This balances the number of content areas tested at grades 4 through 7 while allowing schools to assess a broader range of social studies content.

For more details related to Indiana's assessment system, see the Q&A document available online at [www.doe.in.gov/istep](http://www.doe.in.gov/istep).